

COMMENTS

The Enclosed is responsive to the Examiner's Office Action dated December 8, 2004. The Applicant has canceled pending claims 1 through 30 and added new claims 31 through 75.

The Examiner's attention is drawn to U.S. Patent No. 6,608,836 B2 (hereinafter, the "'836 patent"), and in particular, the allowed claims of the '836 patent. Scrutiny of new claims 31 through 75 against the allowed claims of the '836 patent reveals new claims 31 through 75 to be allowed claims 1 through 45 of the '836 patent with the additional recitation of UPSR and BLSR claim elements.

In the Office Action mailed 12/8/04, the Examiner concluded that a restriction requirement was proper. The Applicant respectfully responds to the Examiner's restriction requirement as follows: 1) the cancellation of claims 1 through 30 renders the outstanding restriction requirement moot, and that, separate re-consideration of new claims 31 through 75 for restriction is appropriate; 2) the allowance of the claims of the '836 patent suggests that restriction of new claims 31 through 75 would be improper (because the claims of the '836 patent were allowed to issue in a single patent and because the claims of the present application are patterned after the claims of the '836 patent).

Given the allowance of the claims of the '836 patent and the present condition of the claims of the present application, the Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is well positioned for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all rejections have been overcome and that all pending claims are in condition for allowance.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account Number 02-2666. If a telephone conference would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact [ATTORNEY] at (408) 720-8300.

Respectfully submitted,

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